

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
MH – ASA – OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting
PENDING APPROVAL

January 6th, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

Member Attendance:	Katie Wait Nadia Constant Kylie Holochak Sarah DiNunzio John Crosby Bob Williams Kari Nichols	Laura Smith Gabriella Ayers Tricia Tomm Anne Seepersaud Gayle Pado
Guest Attendance:	Brian Coleman, Director of St. John's Community Services Richard Bennett, St. John's Community Services	

Mental Hygiene Staff Attendance:	Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services Sarah Begeal, Deputy Director of Community Services Danielle Fabregas, Clinical Program Director Porshea Moore, Peer Advocate Angelica Deyo-Cruz, Corporate Compliance Officer/CSPOA Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director
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Meeting called to order at: 9:33am

Topic: Review November 2025 Minutes – Approved with changes

Topic Director's Report – Lori Morgan

Discussion: Updates:

- Retirement
 - Lori retiring on 1/30/26
 - Sarah Begeal interim DCS
 - Board to determine next DCS
 - Lori expressed her pleasure and gratitude with serving the people of Tioga County
 - All will be missed
- Staffing
 - New Hires:
 - Hunter Buchmann, CSW – Owego
 - Amber Swawola, CSW – Owego
 - Steven Carter, Certified Peer Specialist, Mobile Crisis
 - Leila Squicciarini, ADS - Owego starting 1/25/26
- RFP
 - Awards have been completed
 - Resolutions presented and passed
 - Announcement after Legislature meeting

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Deputy Director's Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- Open positions
 - Sr. Clinical Social Workers
 - Social Worker for CAC
 - Sr. Clinical Social Worker - Tioga Center School
- Mobile Crisis
 - Starting soon
 - Currently taking inside crisis calls

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director Report – Danielle Fabregas

Discussion: Updates:

- Census
 - Mental Health - 560 clients
 - ADS - 84 clients & 34 continued care

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Presentation – Brian Coleman & Richard Bennett – St. John's Community Services

Discussion: Brian & Richard gave an overview of St. John's housing program.

- OASAS Certified Residential Provider
- Apartment based model
- Offering residential supports
- Reintegrating level of care in Tompkins County
- Obtaining certification for other sites
- Residential supports
- Seeking to work with providers, develop partnerships to assist in filling gaps in the community

Lori stated this need has been part of the county plan for 14 years and she is excited about the possible opportunity in Tioga County.

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: OPWDD Subcommittee – John Crosby

Discussion: DDSO/DDRO Report – Renee Nuzak – via email - attached

Achieve – Shannon Westbrook – via email - attached

FFS Report – Gayle Pado

- Statewide Family Supports met in December
- RFP Status – Recycled dollars
 - Unable to discuss currently
 - Should have sharable information in February
- Document Revisions
 - Site visit protocols
 - Changes made, check list revision
- Conflict of Interest discussions
- Language updated in FSS brochure
- Statewide committee bylaws on website
- Peer Support Program
 - Family struggles heard (Hudson Region) regarding reimbursements
 - Success stories shared
- 2026 FSS meeting dates shared

CCO Reports

- Prime Care – Tricia Tomm
 - Fully staffed
 - New enrollments being accepted
 - Mental Health First Aid Training for the Southern Tier Region January 21st, 2026
- Life Plan – Anne Seepersaud
 - Provider education via web today at 3pm
 - Nick Covaletti presenting 2025 year in review & 2026 upcoming highlights
 - Community Provider Networking event in June
 - Tabling opportunity
 - Looking for all services in Tompkins, Tioga & Broome Counties

Rackers Report – Gayle Pado

- Self-Direction accepting new referrals with no wait list
- Traditional Program enrollment on hold
- January events shared (see attached)

Catholic Charities – Gabby Ayers

- Open Mic in January
- Not accepting Community Hab referrals
- Focusing on building employment services
- Approved to provide services in Chemung County as well
- PIT Count
 - Taking place January 22nd
 - Seeking volunteers to count and complete surveys
 - Surveys to be sent to HUD to provide people with services

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: ASA Subcommittee – Kylie Holochak

Discussion: Trinity Report – Laura Smith

- Programs continue in Waverly & Spencer VanEtten schools
 - Josh in Waverly with all middle school, 4th & 5th grades and lunch groups
 - Kim is in Spencer VanEtten Middle School with 5 participating in Teen Intervene
 - Christine in Spencer Elementary with a small group
 - Newark Valley has 2 in Teen Intervene
 - Meeting with Newark Valley Elementary & High School
 - Meet with Owego and Tioga Central Schools
 - No further response from either school

EMS – Bob Williams

- EMS classes starting this month
- Scott Gurney is the new EMS Coordinator
- More trainings scheduled for 2026
- Updating plans
- Open House scheduled for May
- LEPC meeting Wednesday, 1/7, 9:00am at the Public Safety Building
 - CPA speaker
 - 211 from Broome United way
- TAM
 - 2 active (school) cases
 - TAM training in May

Coroner – Bob Williams

- One Benadryl death in October 2025 – unintentional
- Tioga County sponsoring the State Association event at Tioga Downs March 21st
- IT is looking into records management software

Sheriff's Office – Trevor Yaeger – not present

Peer Advocate – Porshea Moore

- Focusing on the unhoused community
- Seeing a rise in substance misuse
- Large increase in Teen Intervene with teens of parents being seen at the clinic
- Continuing to make community connections and finding resources for those in need

ASAP Coalition – Kylie Holochak

- CLYDE Survey is closed
 - Distributed to each perspective school districts (6)
 - Difficult survey to obtain this year
 - Survey results at the end of the week
 - Goal: Review each school's individual data with them

- Results to be released to the community in March
- Narcan trainings
 - 33 Public Works employees trained
- Advertising with different streaming platforms
 - Superbowl commercial to air as well
- Continuing applications for the STOP ACT and DFC Grants
- New Narcan box at the Berkshire Fire Station
- Attending the CADCA leadership forum in Washington DC in February

Public Health – Katie Wait

- Community Health Assessment submitted for 2025-2030 (on website)
- Community Health Improvement Plan being submitted in June 2026
- Credible Minds Website
 - 2,827 users YTD (May – December 2025)
 - Younger demographic

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: MH Subcommittee

Discussion: A new subcommittee chair is needed for the MH Subcommittee. Angel Deyo-Cruz stated interest in the open chair position. All approved unanimously.

A New Hope Center – Sarah DiNunzio

- Received notice of funding
 - Hiring for an Advocate position
- January is “Human Trafficking Awareness Month”
 - Sarah writing an article for the Pennysaver regarding Human Trafficking Awareness
 - Outreach started
 - January 11th – Wear Blue Day
 - Reminders being sent this week
 - Share photos with Sarah
- 2026 is A New Hope Center’s 40th anniversary
 - Gala & Open House being planned
- Hotline Volunteer Training in February
 - 5 weeks/2 virtual sessions per week
 - Notices being sent

RSS Report – Not present

Hea Hea – Nadia Constant

- 1st Qtr. 2026 – Focusing on recruitment
 - Numerous positions vacant
 - Requirements listed
- Admission screenings started
- Started screening for substance misuse – SAMSHA supported
- Implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR) technology
- Website updates – narrowed objectives to include (co-occurring) opioid

therapy.

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:29am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026^h, at 9:30am

DRAFT

Graves, Susan

From: Nurek, Renee M (OPWDD) <renee.m.nurek@opwdd.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:05 AM
To: Graves, Susan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Today

I am unable to make the meeting today. I apologize for the late notice. I will be at the next one. I had only one update that I wanted to share and it is the following information:

The Department of Health (DOH) General Information System (GIS) message regarding the Aid Continuing Directive expires on 12/31/2025. This means as of 1/1/2026 when a Notice of Decision (NOD) is issued to terminate or reduce OPWDD eligibility, waiver enrollment, CCO services, or service authorization, the person will be granted Aid Continuing only when they request a Fair Hearing within 10 days of the NOD Date of Notice.

RENEE NUREK, DDPS 2
NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Broome DDRO
<249 Glenwood Rd. Binghamton, NY 13850>
NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
renee.m.nurek@opwdd.ny.gov
(607) 217-6603
www.opwdd.ny.gov

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Graves, Susan

From: Shannon Westbrook <swestbrook@achieveny.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:06 AM
To: Graves, Susan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting

Good morning,

I am unfortunately not able to make the meeting this morning as I have a training I must attend.

Tioga Day Hab

Enrolled: 22
Referrals: 1 Graduating this year
unfortunately, we had one person pass away last month.

Tioga Day Hab Without Walls

Enrolled: 9
Referrals In Process: 2

On November 13th, we welcomed a group from BOCES to Tioga Day Habilitation for part of the day to participate in various activities. This visit marked the beginning of a collaborative transition program that I have been developing with BOCES.

The purpose of this program is to support students who will be graduating within the next year or two by helping them prepare for life after school. Through this initiative, students will have opportunities to visit Tioga and/or Broome Day Habilitation sites, meet the individuals who attend these programs, and interact with staff. During these visits, they will also work on building skills that will make them feel more comfortable and confident when it's time to transition into one of the day habilitation programs.

Our next visit is scheduled in February at our Broome site.

This month we will be getting new flooring in the day hab area as the epoxy flooring that we had is failing. We will be having carpet and vinyl flooring installed.

I am currently looking for a greenhouse for Tioga Day Hab so we can start growing different vegetables that we can use to make healthy meals and to donate to the local food banks.

We continue to discuss revamping the rest of the building and have been discussing different options for programming.

Shannon

Shannon Westbrook
Day Habilitation Services Coordinator



Office: (607) 223-4759 Cell: (607) 427-1308 Fax: (607) 223-4762
E-Mail: swestbrook@achieveny.org
Address: 56 Broadway Rd., Owego NY 13827

WWW.ACHIEVENY.ORG



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PROVIDER NETWORKING EVENT 2026

LIFEPlan CCO members and families are invited to attend this event to meet with IDD Providers and learn about IDD programs and services in your region.

We hope you can join us. **Please scan the QR code to register.**

SOUTHERN TIER

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton

225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

Discussion Panel on Self-Direction at 11 a.m.

Free parking at the hotel.



**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

lifeplanccony.com



Provider Relations Networking Event

Sponsorship Agreement

Provider Networking Event (Region): _____

Date of Event: _____ Time of Event: _____

Event Venue: _____

Venue Address: _____

CCO Contact Information

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Sponsorship Level

Sponsorship includes special recognition and table placement at the event, as well as recognition on the CCO website and Provider Relations e-News, see back/second page for the breakdown of tier benefits.

Select Your Sponsorship Level Below:



Diamond Level (\$2500)



Platinum Level (\$1000)



Gold Level (\$750)



Silver (\$500)



Bronze (\$250)

Provider Agency

Provider Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____ **Email:** _____

Name(s) of People Attending: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED AGREEMENT BY THE FOLLOWING DATE TO THE EMAIL BELOW

Return By Date: _____

Name: _____ **Email Address:** _____

**please note: payment must be received at least seven days prior to the event*



Provider Relations Networking Events

Sponsorship Tier Information

Diamond: \$2,500

- Virtual Drop-In Session with 3 Regional Care Management team to share information about services offered and existing opportunities
- Opportunity to table at any Networking Event with preferential table placement
- Recognition on The LIFEPlan CCO and ACANY website
- Spotlight on Provider Relations e-News
- Spotlight on Member Relations e-news
- Resource table at LIFEPlan and ACANY regional hub sites with sponsors' information for Care Management and Members and Families
- Featured on banners and posters at events
- Preferential table placement at the event

Platinum: \$1,000

- Virtual Drop-In Session with Regional Care Management team to share information about services offered and existing opportunities
- Recognition on The LIFEPlan CCO and ACANY website
- Spotlight on Provider Relations e-News
- Spotlight on Member Relations e-news
- Resource table at LIFEPlan and ACANY regional hub sites with sponsors' information for Care Management and Members and Families
- Featured on banners and posters at events
- Preferential table placement at the event

Gold: \$750

- Recognition on The LIFEPlan CCO and ACANY website
- Spotlight on Provider Relations e-News
- Spotlight on Member Relations e-news
- Resource table at LIFEPlan and ACANY regional hub sites with sponsors' information for Care Management and Members and Families
- Featured on banners and posters at events
- Preferential table placement at the event

Silver: \$500

- Spotlight on Provider Relations e-News
- Spotlight on Member Relations e-news
- Resource table at LIFEPlan and ACANY regional hub sites with sponsors' information for Care Management and Members and Families
- Featured on banners and posters at events
- Preferential table placement at the event

Bronze: \$250

- Resource table at LIFEPlan and ACANY regional hub sites with sponsors' information for Care Management and Members and Families
- Featured on banners and posters at events
- Preferential table placement at the event

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Closed for Holiday	2	3
4	5  Caregiver Group	6  Cortland Craft Club 4:30-6:00	7  Virtual BINGO and in person in Ithaca	8 	9	10
11	12  Virtual Book Club: Creating Community Through Books	13  GAME SHOW NIGHT 5:30-7 PM	14  Virtual BINGO and in person in Cortland	15  Fidget Lab GIGGLE WIGGLES 607	16	17
18	19  Closed for Holiday	20  Cortland Craft Club 4:30-6:00	21  Virtual BINGO and in person in Ithaca	22  Fidget Lab GIGGLE WIGGLES 607	23	24
25	26  Book Club	27	28  Virtual BINGO and in person in Cortland	29  Fidget Lab GIGGLE WIGGLES 607	30	31

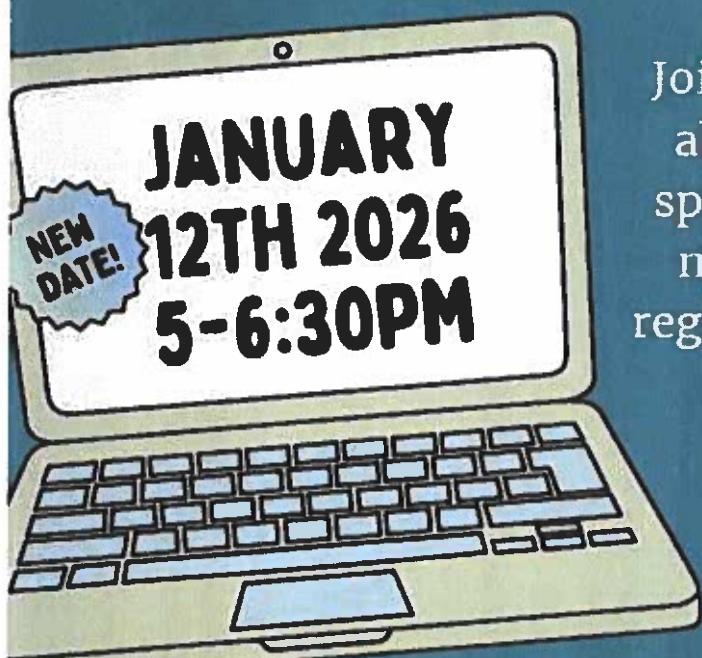
For more information, contact LendingLibrary@racker.org

More information about events can be found below:



VIRTUAL TRAINING

CREATING SENSORY FRIENDLY SPACES



Join us via ZOOM to learn about how to make any space, home or business, more sensory friendly, regardless of your budget.

To sign up contact
LyndseyP@racker.org
or scan this QR code



Events like these are made possible by a Family Support Services grant from the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Sign up for: [Virtual Training: Creating Sensory friendly spaces – Fill out form](#)



Bi-Weekly, Online GAMESHOW *Night*

Get ready for an evening of fun, learning, and connection at our Virtual Game Show Night from Racker's Autism Lending Library!

This inclusive event features interactive trivia challenges, engaging activities focused on disability rights, and playful games designed to build social skills in a supportive, judgment free environment.

Whether you're a trivia buff, curious about advocacy, or just looking to meet new friends, this night is all about celebrating strengths, learning new skills, and having a blast together!

Every Other Tuesday 5:30-7pm



<https://racker.zoom.us/j/83422937898>



Craft Club



**Biweekly Tuesdays 4:30-6 PM
882 NY-13 Cortland NY**

Explore the senses of vision, smell & touch while coloring, painting & getting creative with the Lending Library & Sensory Room! Crafts can be customized for all needs & ages. Come once or come often.

*Made possible by a Family Support Services grant from
the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities*



Autism & Sensory
Lending Library



ADAPTIVE BINGO GAME NIGHT

Join us from

5-7pm

for bingo every wednesday!

New bi-weekly rotating Location PLUS VIRTUAL!

3226 Wilkins Rd Ithaca NY 14850

and

882 NY-13 Cortland NY 13045

Enjoy a game designed with accessibility in mind, featuring large fonts, a relaxed calling pace, & a welcoming atmosphere.
Families and CSP's welcome.

For Questions or Registration issues, contact:
LendingLibrary@racker.org

Scan to Register:



This program is made possible through Family Support Services
grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities



A Weekly "Build Your Own" Fidget Workshop

FIDGET LAB

Every Thursday
4pm - 5:30pm



All supplies will be provided,
The whole family is welcome,
No registration needed!

Questions? Contact: LendingLibrary@racker.org (607) 529-0142

3226 Wilkins Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850

This program is made possible through Family Support Services
grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities



Autism & Sensory
Lending Library

PARENT NETWORK

CAREGIVER GROUP

CAREGIVERS OF THOSE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES (OF ALL AGES) ARE INVITED TO JOIN
THIS MONTHLY PEER-DRIVEN GROUP,
WHERE YOU CAN MEET OTHER CAREGIVERS, SHARE
RESOURCES, OFFER ADVICE, & FIND KINDNESS.
COME ONCE, COME OFTEN,
STAY FOR A MINUTE OR STAY FOR MANY.

**1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
5:00-6:30PM VIA ZOOM**

TO SIGN UP: CONTACT (607) 529-0224 OR
LYNDEYP@RACKER.ORG



EVENTS & TRAININGS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT
FUNDING FROM THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Click here to sign up for Caregiver Group: <https://forms.office.com/r/nxpACG3bD7>



Adaptive **BOOK** **CLUB**

Mondays 6:30-7:30pm
882 NY-13, Cortland, NY 13045 & Zoom

LendingLibrary@racker.org

Join us as we explore the world of books
& how they can be adapted for all to enjoy.
Book club is an excellent way to experience new topics
together and make friends.



VIP

- *OPWDD Diagnosis
- *FSS Eligible
- *Enrolled in the Lending Library



This program is made possible through Family Support Services
grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

DID YOU KNOW RACKER'S LENDING LIBRARY DELIVERS FOR FREE?

Possibly available in Madison & Onondaga County, with OPWDD approval.

WHO CAN GET DELIVERIES?

Any family who is enrolled in Racker's Lending Library, including those who Self-Direct. We will schedule deliveries within your availability.

In order to enroll, contact the team for a referral form.



WHERE CAN ITEMS BE DELIVERED?

Our team is happy to deliver items right to your front door or a community meet up of your choosing.

We deliver to Broome, Cortland, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, & Tompkins County. As well as Madison & Onondaga, where possible.



HOW TO REQUEST DELIVERY:

To request a delivery use our digital library "hold" feature or contact us at:



LendingLibrary@racker.org



Call or TEXT
(607) 529-0142

Once you are done with your loan, you can schedule a FREE pick up!

